

# Pilbara Minerals' cash call brings in \$200m

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The white-hot investor interest in all things lithium has seen would-be developer Pilbara Minerals swamped with cash, with the company's \$80 million equity raising believed to have attracted almost \$200m in applications.

Market sources told *The Australian* the 38c a share equity raising had been inundated with interest from institutional investors around the world.

The huge level of demand not only reflected the growing investor interest in Pilbara Minerals but also the broader lithium thematic.

Lithium is one of the key elements in the next-generation batteries at the heart of electric vehicles and home power storage systems such as those being developed and sold by Tesla.

Pilbara aimed to use the cash to fast-track the development of its Pilgangoora hard-rock lithium deposit near Port Hedland, which is shaping up as one of the largest deposits of its kind.

The funding would go towards

early site works and the ordering of long lead items while the company completes a definitive feasibility study.

Pilbara would also be raising about \$15m through a share purchase plan for existing investors, which coupled with its cash reserves would leave it with more than \$100m in cash to its name.

The Pilbara raising appeared to be the fifth largest by an ASX-listed resources play since the start of last year, reinforcing the cash that remained available to early-stage developers working in the right commodities.

Sydney-based Blue Ocean Equities is acting as lead manager to the raising with support from Perth broker Hartleys.

The raising is also believed to be supported by Numis Securities out of Britain and a North American group.

The raising came after another sharp rally in Pilbara as speculators responded to the news of a huge inflow of orders for the new model Tesla electric vehicle.

The stock last traded at 50c.

Pilbara Minerals shares were changing hands at just 3.5c a share a year ago.